

READING COURSE FOR GIRLS.

United States Bureau of Education, Home Education Division.

READING COURSE No. 5.

In our schools boys and girls learn to read, and those who are fortunate enough to attend schools of the best type form the habit of reading, learn to distinguish good books from bad and worthless books, and acquire a taste for the best. Others are less fortunate and finish or quit school with little knowledge of books, with no well established habits of reading, and without having a sure and discriminate taste.

For most American girls school life is short, school hours are few, and there is little time in school for general reading. At best, the schools can only give them the ability to read—to hear through the eye and to interpret the printed page. The actual reading, beyond the school lessons, must be done at home and most of it after school days are over; for this most American girls have much time.

It is also true that reading is most profitable to those who, at the same time, are gaining knowledge through the actual and ordinary experience of life and home and industrial occupations. We learn by doing. Experience is the great educator. We learn by doing only when the doing is intelligent. Experience educates only when it is understood and it is most educative only when it becomes the means through which we interpret the experiences of others, adding them to our own and thus enriching our lives beyond the possibility of our own personal experiences. The learner must ever be a worker and the worker should ever be a learner. This leads to all-sided intelligence; fullness of life; happiness and usefulness.

The books recommended in this course are chosen with a view to the duties and responsibilities most girls must meet and assume in life and with a consideration for their practical value in helping girls to learn the things they need to know, but which most girls can learn only through reading.

A good book should be read more than once and every girl should own some of the books which she reads. Books are cheap and money paid for them is well invested and will pay large dividends in life and happiness and even in money itself. Most cities and towns in the United States and some country communities have good public libraries, and many public schools both in city and country, have good small collections. Every community in which boys and girls live should have a public library with all the books of this list

and many others in it. If there is no such a library in your community, in the school or elsewhere, then you should get all the girls to work with you and not rest until there is one.

To each person giving satisfactory evidence of having read all the books in this list, there will be awarded a certificate, bearing the seal of the United States Bureau of Education and signed by the Commissioner of Education, and it is hoped that many thousands may do so. State school officers are asked to cooperate with the Bureau of Education in directing in their several States this and other reading courses arranged by the Bureau. In those States in which this is done, the certificates may bear also the signature of the chief school officers.

The Home Education Division of the Bureau of Education will, as far as possible, answer questions about the subject matter of these books asked by those registering for this reading course.

For admission to the circle of girls reading in this course, it is only necessary to write to the Home Education Division of the Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C., giving your name and post office address, your age, and a brief statement of your education and occupation. You should write the Home Education Division of the Bureau when you have finished reading any book of the course. It is not necessary that the books be read in the order given. They should all be read, however, within three years from the time that you register.

MISCELLANEOUS READING COURSE FOR GIRLS.

1. Alice in wonderland. Lewis Carroll (*pseud.*). Thomas Y. Crowell co.

A new kind of fairy story. More fantastic than Andersen's, drawing on modern science and all kinds of modern ideas for materials. It is ludicrous in its distortion of familiar things and droll irrelevance.

2. Birds' Christmas carol. Kate Douglas Wiggin. Houghton Mifflin co.

Tells how the Ruggleses went to a Christmas dinner party. It breathes the tenderest spirit of love and human kindness.

3. Little women. Louisa M. Alcott. Little, Brown & co.

A wholesome story of girl life based on the early life of Miss Alcott and her sister.

4. Pride and prejudice. Jane Austen.

A high-spirited girl and priggish lover are reconciled by the natural growth of esteem.

5. The jungle book. Rudyard Kipling. Century co.

Brought up by wolves, a child becomes leader and friend of the animals in the jungle.

6. David Copperfield. Charles Dickens.

Tells some of his own early struggles and other cherished memories; varied episodes; his first marriage; Miss Betsey Trotwood, Barkis, Micawber and Pegotty are pleasing grotesques.

7. Lorna Doone. R. D. Blackmore.

A romance of Devonshire; thrilling adventure and interesting description of beautiful English moorland. The adventures of John Riad and his love for Lorna Doone.

8. Mill on the floss. George Eliot.

A significant tragedy of the inner life enacted amidst the quaint folk and old fashioned surroundings of Gainsborough. Three aunts are famous humorous characters.

9. Ivanhoe. Sir Walter Scott.

A picture of medieval England when castles were the strongholds of baronial oppressors and the woods full of outlaws. Characters are some of the most romantic of the Middle Ages, such as Cœur de Lion, Robin Hood, Friar Tuck, Allan-a-Dale, and others.

10. Evangeline. Henry W. Longfellow. Poem.

A tale of Acadie. Lovers were separated when the people of Acadie were dispersed by English troops and sought each other for years.

11. Idylls of the King. Alfred Tennyson.

List of idylls in their order: 1. The coming of Arthur; 2. Gareth and Lynette; 3. The marriage of Geraint; 4. Geraint and Enid; 5. Balin and Balan; 6. Merlin and Vivien; 7. Launcelot and Elaine; 8. The Holy Grail; 9. Pelleas and Ettarre; 10. The last tournament; 11. Guinevere; 12. The passing of Arthur.

12. Merchant of Venice. William Shakespeare.

The lawsuit between Antonio and Shylock; Bassanio's courtship and that of the other three suitors for Portia's and Gratiano's for Nerissa; Jessica's love for and elopement with Lorenzo.

13. Romeo and Juliet. William Shakespeare.

The tale of this play originated in Italy and is full of intrigue, old family feuds, and the blindness of passion ending in tragedy.

14. Florence Nightingale. Laura E. Richards. D. Appleton & co.

The angel of the Crimean War.

15. The story of my life. Helen Keller. Doubleday, Page & co.

An account of her education.

16. A short history of the English people. J. R. Green.

17. Some silent teachers. Elizabeth Harrison. National Kindergarten College, Chicago.

A world of opportunity for spiritual and mental development is opened up if the eye, ear, and heart are awake to the message of environment.

18. Shelter and clothing. Kinne and Cooley. Macmillan co.

The ideals of home, its ideals in organization, sanitation, decoration, and furnishing; questions of textiles, sewing, and dressmaking.

19. Foods and household management. Kinne and Cooley. Macmillan co.

Interesting problems of household arts.

20. The furnishing of a modest house. Fred Hamilton Daniels. Atkinson, Mentzer & Grover.

Suggestions for the furnishing and decoration of a home. Attention is given to each room.

21. Girl and woman. Caroline W. Latimer, M. D. D. Appleton & co.

Deals in a practical way with the physical, mental, and moral disturbances of girlhood, bodily functions, exercise, sleep, personal hygiene, etc.

22. What can literature do for me? C. Alphonso Smith. Doubleday, Page & co.

It can give you an outlet; keep before you the vision, the ideal; give you a better knowledge of human nature; restore the past; show the glory of the commonplace; give you a mastery of your own language.

NOTE.—When no publisher is mentioned the books may be obtained at varying prices, depending on the quality of the edition. Apply to any store selling books or to any book dealer or publisher.

The Bureau of Education does not lend or sell the books.



